

Application No.: 10/707,731

Docket No.: 209518-82935

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action dated May 25, 2005 and thanks the Examiner for the detailed review of the pending claims. Claims 12-26 were rejected. In this amendment claims 12-18 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 19 and 23 have been amended, and claims 27-30 have been added; however, no new matter has been added. Applicant requests reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 12-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cooper (U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0025318). Applicant has cancelled claims 12-18 and has amended claims 19 and 23 to include the steps of extending the first independently extendible member along a first path to orient the dispenser about a first member and moving the third independently extendible member along a second path generally parallel to the first path to align the first and second members. In contrast, Cooper discloses an apparatus that includes three extendable components that are movable along paths perpendicular to each other, not generally parallel to each other.

The claims that depend from claims 19 and 23 include additional patentably distinct limitations and, therefore, are patentably distinct as well. For example, nowhere does Cooper disclose the step of dispensing a glue or adhesive from the dispenser onto the hose without roughing, etching or otherwise processing an outer surface of the hose prior to dispensing the glue or adhesive, as recited in new claim 27. Instead, Cooper expressly discloses the use of a scrubbing tool 70 to roughen the outer surface of the hose prior to application of the adhesive (see, e.g., FIG. 2, item 70, and page 2, paragraph [0030]).

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper as applied to claim 12. Claim 16 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, the §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due beyond the fees identified in the accompanying transmittal. However, if an additional fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-3145, under Order No. 209518-82935 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: August 25, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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